

NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION



Information Letter



FOR N. C. A. MEMBERS

No. 318

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Labeling of Canned Mixed Vegetables

In the Information Letter for July 13, page 1581, was given the text of a notice by the Department of Agriculture in reference to labeling of canned mixed vegetables. Some canners of this product have pointed out to the Department that a more exact statement regarding the meaning of this decision is desirable. For instance, the notice states that "the use of a vignette on a label depicting vegetables not present in the can in substantial amounts is improper, as is also a vignette which fails to display all vegetables present."

It is obviously difficult to state just what is meant by a "substantial amount." A certain percentage might be regarded as substantial with some vegetables and not with others. Those canners who have made representations to the Department have requested a definition of the ideas of the Department which will enable them to comply with those ideas as exactly as possible in labeling their mixed vegetables. In order that other canners of this product may have an opportunity to be heard, officers of the Food, Drug and Insecticide Administration will be ready to consult with canners of mixed vegetables who may desire to be heard on Thursday, August 15, at 2 o'clock.

The conference will be in the office of the Administration at 216 Thirteenth St., S. W. The Department will be glad to receive any suggestions that may be offered that may assist them in formulating a further statement regarding this matter. The Department desires it understood that this conference is for the sole purpose of discussing a more exact explanation of the meaning of the notice mentioned above. No other phase of the question should be discussed. Questions relating to the use

of labels already on hand should be taken up separately by individual canners and jobbers.

The Department especially desires it understood that no suggestion of the recall of the notice referred to, or of a change in its principles, will be entertained.

Revision of Western Territory Rates Proposed

General revision of rates on traffic now moving under class rates between points in Western Trunk Line Territory and between points in that territory and points in the entire country east of the Mississippi River and Lake Michigan, has been recommended in a report submitted to the Interstate Commerce Commission by examiners in the case (Docket No. 17000).

The proposed basis of rates would effect many reductions, but increases would predominate. The report recommends that the full measure of the increased class rates be not applied on certain commodities, including agricultural implements, dairy products, canned foods, and iron and steel articles, but that such commodities be accorded rates based on certain percentages of first class lower than would result by application of the full class basis.

The Interstate Commerce Commission has announced that exceptions to the examiner's report must be filed with the Commission by September 30, and replies to such exceptions by October 19. Oral argument will be held before the Commission on October 21-25, and the Commission will render its decision as soon as possible thereafter.

In the Commission's summary of the commissioner's report is stated:

In the report proposed the examiners recommend that, for rate-making purposes, Western Trunk Line Territory be divided into three zones. The lowest-rated zone includes, roughly, that part of the Territory east of the Mississippi River and Sioux Falls-Twin Cities-Duluth line. The intermediate zone lies west thereof and includes most of eastern Kansas, southeastern Nebraska, and the area east of a line from Sioux City through Mitchell and Aberdeen, S. Dak., and Fargo and Grand Forks, N. Dak., to Duluth. The highest-rated zone includes that part of the Territory west and north of the intermediate zone. They are termed zones I, II, and III, respectively.

For application between points in the lowest-rated zone there is recommended a distance scale of rates nearly 83 per cent of the scale prescribed for Oklahoma and other southwestern states in the Consolidated Southwestern Cases. The distance scale recommended for the intermediate zone is the same as the Kansas-Missouri scale prescribed for southwestern



SNAP BEANS

States	Acreage		Production	
	1928 Acres	Estimated 1929 Acres	1928 Tons	Forecast 1929 Tons
Maine	970	1,600	2,300	3,800
New York	6,840	8,140	10,900	16,300
Pennsylvania	1,060	1,270	2,200	1,800
Indiana	1,800	2,320	3,200	4,200
Michigan	2,950	3,840	4,400	5,000
Wisconsin	4,600	5,750	7,400	8,000
Delaware	670	670	900	900
Maryland	4,360	5,450	6,500	7,100
South Carolina	700	820	1,500	1,300
Tennessee	1,220	1,220	1,800	2,000
Mississippi	1,690	1,860	2,900	1,900
Arkansas	1,790	2,240	2,000	3,800
Louisiana	3,040	2,280	2,100	4,600
Colorado	1,600	2,430	3,400	5,300
Utah	1,020	1,560	2,400	3,700
Washington	700	1,050	2,400	3,400
Oregon	650	980	2,500	3,500
California	480	700	2,200	2,900
Other states	<u>3,010</u>	<u>3,310</u>	<u>4,200</u>	<u>4,300</u>
U. S. total	39,150	47,490	65,200	83,500

83,800

65,200

47,490

39,150

U. S. total

25

To accompany Information Letter #318, August 10, 1929.

CANNING CROP FORECASTS

On the basis of condition on August 1, the Division of Crop and Live-stock Estimates forecasts the production of tomatoes for manufacture at 1,272,000 tons, as compared with a yield of 954,600 tons in 1928. Sweet corn production is forecast at 696,700 tons, as compared with a yield of 536,400 tons in 1928. Snap bean production is estimated at 83,800 tons, as compared with 65,200 tons in 1928. The following tables show the acreage and yield in 1928 and the estimated acreage and forecast of production for 1929. The forecasts are, of course, subject to change according to developments after August 1.

TOMATOES

States	Acreage		Production	
	1928 Acres	Estimated 1929 Acres	1928 Tons	Forecast 1929 Tons
New York	11,170	12,280	65,900	78,700
New Jersey	33,000	33,000	118,800	168,300
Pennsylvania	3,600	3,780	13,000	14,700
Ohio	10,400	11,440	60,300	65,200
Indiana	49,870	59,840	149,600	215,400
Illinois	5,130	5,440	17,400	21,200
Michigan	1,660	1,990	9,600	10,700
Iowa	4,810	4,670	16,800	16,300
Missouri	10,000	8,840	14,400	26,000
Kentucky	5,500	6,820	11,600	25,200

Michigan	1,660	9,100	10,760
Iowa	4,810	16,800	21,610
Missouri	8,800	6,840	15,640
Kentucky	5,500	11,600	17,100
Tennessee	10,220	9,200	19,420
Arkansas	19,600	22,540	42,140
Colorado	1,600	11,800	13,400
Utah	5,650	65,500	71,150
California	25,790	201,200	227,000
Other states	4,070	14,200	18,270
U. S. total	254,180	964,600	1,218,780

SWEET CORN

Maine	10,770	30,200	40,970
New Hampshire	1,110	2,600	3,710
Vermont	1,940	4,700	6,640
New York	27,000	32,400	59,400
Pennsylvania	3,640	3,600	7,240
Ohio	27,910	36,300	64,210
Indiana	27,390	38,300	65,690
Illinois	54,880	120,700	175,580
Michigan	8,930	16,100	25,030
Wisconsin	14,780	29,600	44,380
Minnesota	25,340	63,400	88,740
Iowa	39,860	91,700	131,560
Nebraska	5,470	9,800	15,270
Delaware	4,060	7,300	11,360
Maryland	30,800	37,000	67,800
Other states	5,300	12,700	18,000
U. S. total	289,180	536,400	825,580

1928
Pct.

1929
Pct.

1928
Pct.

1929
Pct.

1929
Pct.

1928
Pct.

	1928	1929	1928	1929	1928	1929
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
New York	82	87	72	70	*75	78
North Atlantic	82	87	72	70	75	78
Ohio	80	82	91	*81	*85	88
Indiana	*85	*	95	*72	*90	86
Illinois	85	90	95	85	*83	80
Michigan	83	88	94	82	84	78
Wisconsin	87	88	79	72	82	84
Minnesota	81	88	89	*70	*74	86
Iowa				*	*	88
Missouri				*60	*75	83
North Central	83	86	89	77	84	82
Colorado	83	*80	90	*60	*80	87
Washington	*	*	85	*80	*75	75
California				86	89	80
Far Western	83	80	88	75	84	82
Other states	74	85	90	77	85	77
U. S. average	81	86	84	76	84	81

* No reports or based on partial reports.



Missouri and eastern Kansas in that case. The highest scale is identical with the southwestern scale. For application between points in different zones, the examiners recommend that the lower or lowest scale be applied for the entire distance, plus differentials for the distances in the higher-rated zones.

The plan employed in constructing rates between points in different zones in Western Trunk Line Territory is recommended also for constructing interterritorial rates between points in Illinois, Official and Southern Territories on the one hand, and Western Trunk Line Territory on the other. A basic scale, approximating 68 per cent of the southwestern scale, is recommended for application to the entire distance, plus differentials for the distance within the Western Trunk Line zone and/or in Southern Territory. A different method is recommended as a temporary measure for application between Southern and Western Trunk Line Territories on traffic moving through Mississippi River gateways, Memphis and south.

A similar plan and the same basic scale, with addition of differentials, is recommended for lake-rail rates. Before so applying the scales, it is proposed that the water distance be equated to rail distance on the basis of 10 water miles to 3 rail miles.

Distances are to be computed over the shortest routes over which car-load traffic can be transported without change of lading.

It is recommended that western classification shall govern both Western Trunk Line intraterritorial and interterritorial rates, and that the percentage relationships of the lower classes to first class should be the same as those prescribed in the Consolidated Southwestern Cases, except that 37.5 per cent is proposed for fifth-class.

Truck Crop Markets

During the week ended August 3, fruits and vegetables were still suffering from dry weather in many parts of the country, according to the U. S. Market News Service.

Droughty conditions have slowed down the growth of the cabbage crop and even affected the market to some extent. In cabbage sections of New York there is complaint of dry weather, aphids and worm injury. Some cabbage of the domestic type was expected to be cut for market by the middle of August. The contract price of kraut cabbage in that section at near \$6 per ton is considered too low by many growers in view of conditions somewhat unfavorable for high yield per acre. The kraut makers seem to rely on the increase of possibly 20 per cent in cabbage acreage to provide a part of their requirements by direct purchase. Condition in mid-July was 87 per cent, which compares with 66 per cent a year ago, but does not take into account the lack of enough rain in late July. The late set fields of Danish type cabbage will need more rain to make a good crop despite the increased acreage of these varieties.

Supplies of apples in the various markets are uneven, ranging from light in some eastern markets to heavy in a few middle-western cities, depending considerably upon the extent of local supply. Carlot shipments have been limited because of comparative lateness in the western crop.

Peach shipments show a tendency to increase in late summer because of the better crop in the North and Middle West. Shipments from Arkansas were heavy at the beginning of August and there were fairly liberal supplies from the Carolinas, Tennessee and midwestern sections. Daily output from all sources varied from 400 to 500 cars daily. Total for the week was 3,353 cars.

Shipments of cantaloupes continue to average somewhat above 200 cars daily. More than half of them are from the Far West, but supplies from Maryland and from middle-western producing regions are fairly liberal.

Haulings of grapes in the Fresno district of California were increasing. Demand was moderate and prices slightly lower. This district is considered 10 days to 2 weeks later than last season; heavier shipments are expected for this week.

The pack of canning peas was reported less than was expected from the larger acreage. Yield of early varieties was light in New York and Wisconsin, but later kinds did better in the Middle West. New York peas showed condition of only 60 per cent in mid-July. Since then, the weather has been too hot and dry for peas most of the time.

CARLOT SHIPMENTS

Commodity	July 25 Aug. 3 1929	July 21-27 1929	July 29 Aug. 4 1928	Total this season to August 3	Total last season to August 4	Total last season
Apples	577	590	986	2,741	4,377	127,180
Cabbage	231	217	190	22,872	17,804	38,796
Carrots	16	38	24	8,983	3,223	7,300
Cherries	78	128	53	2,177	3,545	3,071
Cucumbers	53	190	153	6,384	6,184	7,464
Green peas	259	177	151	4,144	3,971	4,088
Mixed deciduous fruit ..	243	214	471	1,086	2,048	6,490
Mixed vegetables	564	433	551	22,111	28,136	33,872
Peaches	3,333	3,379	9,152	13,665	30,449	57,696
Pears	1,114	883	1,516	2,532	5,583	24,430
Peppers	13	47	33	2,344	2,659	3,569
Plums and prunes	108	109	117	1,587	3,179	7,233
String beans	33	22	14	7,017	6,010	6,707
Tomatoes	531	659	532	22,188	21,632	30,257

Forecast of Pimiento Production

The production of pimientos for canning in California for the 1929-30 season is forecast by the Division of Crop and Livestock Estimates at 6,190 tons, as compared with 12,110 tons in the 1928-29 season. The crop in that state covers parts of two calendar years. The production in Georgia in 1929 is fore-

cast at 12,980 tons, as compared with 7,500 tons in 1928. Accordingly, the crop of the two states will amount, according to this forecast, to 19,170 tons as compared with 19,610 tons in the preceding season.

Weather Conditions

Timely and beneficial rains, generous in many sections, greatly improved the agricultural situation, particularly as regards corn, over a considerable area in the interior of the country during the week ended August 1. This was especially true in the Ohio Valley, the middle Appalachian Mountain sections, and in parts of the upper Mississippi Valley. In the middle and North Atlantic area showers were also helpful, but were insufficient in many places, and a good general rain is badly needed from Virginia northward to New England.

In the Northwest warm, dry weather intensified the drought, with moisture needed throughout practically the entire Plains area and also in northern Rocky Mountain sections. It continued dry also in some trans-Mississippi states, especially in Missouri, Arkansas and northern Louisiana. On the other hand, good rains materially improved the situation over a considerable area of the Southwest, including much of the states of Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona and Utah. In the Southeast there is local need of rain, but in the main a good growing week was experienced.

The first part of the week was very warm generally east of the Rocky Mountains, but the latter part was cool from the upper Mississippi Valley eastward. The period, as a whole, was considerably cooler than normal from the Ohio River northward and northeastward, and the temperatures averaged near normal in the Southeast and much above normal in the Great Plains states, as well as in the Northwest.

The bulk of the corn crop is in the critical stage of development, and large areas are badly in need of moisture. In the Ohio Valley and in much of Iowa timely rains were very beneficial and the situation was largely relieved, although some sections continued too dry. The crop is still doing well also in most of South Dakota and Nebraska, but there is need of a general rain in these states.

Proposes Adjustment in Canned Grapefruit Rates

Revision of the rates on canned grapefruit and canned grapefruit juice in carloads from Eagle Lake and Lake Alfred,

Fla., to Tampa and Jacksonville for interstate shipment by water beyond and to destinations in West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Missouri, Iowa and Wisconsin, and to Richmond, Va., is recommended to the Interstate Commerce Commission in a report submitted by Examiner Cooper. The report recommends that the Commission find the present rates not unreasonable for the past, but unreasonable for the future, and that in the future rates be prescribed that do not exceed 35 per cent of the Appendix K-2 scale of the first-class rates plus the Appendix L-2 arbitraries for Florida hauls as prescribed in Southern Class Rate Investigation.

Complaint Filed on Canned Food Rates

A complaint has been filed with the Interstate Commerce Commission asking the establishment of reasonable rates and charges on canned fruits and vegetables in carloads from canning factory points in Colorado and Utah to South Dakota destinations, in order to place such shipping points on an equal footing with competitors at Sioux City, Omaha, and other highly competitive points.

Prisons Ask Bids on Canned Foods

The Superintendent of Prisons, Department of Justice, is asking for bids, to be opened on September 3, for canned foods for delivery from October 1 to December 31 at the penitentiaries at Leavenworth and Atlanta, and correctional institutions at Chillicothe and Alderson. Most of the awards will be made on samples. Copies of the schedule on which to submit bids may be obtained from the Superintendent of Prisons, Justice Department, Washington.

Price Trends of Canned Foods

Following are the average wholesale prices of specified canned foods as compiled by the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The purpose of these averages is to show trends and they cannot properly be used to estimate margins between wholesale and retail prices:

	June, 1928	May, 1929	June, 1929
Milk, condensed, per case, New York	\$5.825	\$6.125	\$6.125
Milk, evaporated, per case, New York	4.275	4.300	4.300
Salmon, Alaska red, per doz., factory	2.800	2.650	2.650
Peaches, 2½'s, per doz., New York	1.775	1.775	1.775
Pineapples, 2½'s, per doz., New York	2.250	2.400	2.400
Corn, 2's, per doz., New York	1.400	1.150	1.150
Corn, 2's, per doz., factory	1.075	.975	.975
Peas, 2's, per doz., New York	1.325	1.300	1.300
Tomatoes, 5's, per doz., New York	1.400	1.900	2.000

Production of Canned Oysters in 1928-29

A preliminary report by the Bureau of Fisheries on the production of canned oysters in the United States during the 1928-29 season shows a pack of 520,633 standard cases valued at \$2,781,372. This pack is computed from complete returns of the canners who operated during the fall and winter period of 1928 (September to December, inclusive) and returns from all but 4 canners who operated during the winter and spring period of 1929 (January to May, inclusive). These statistics are believed to be approximately 98 per cent complete. There were 63 plants actively engaged in canning oysters during the past season.

The pack of the 1927-28 season amounted to 499,160 standard cases, valued at \$2,733,115, which was estimated as representing 90 per cent of the total pack. Based on the estimated total production, the pack for the past season decreased 4 per cent in amount and 7 per cent in value as compared with the pack and its value for the previous season.

Business Conditions

The volume of money turnover during the week ended August 3, as reflected by debits to individual accounts, was smaller than in the preceding week but substantially greater than a year ago, according to the weekly statement of the Department of Commerce.

Distribution of goods through primary channels, as reflected by freight-car loadings covering the latest reported week, was substantially greater than at this time last year, and set a new high record for this period of the year.

The general index of wholesale prices showed a decline from the preceding week and was still below the level which prevailed a year ago. Interest rates on both time and call funds averaged higher than in either the previous week or the same period of 1928. Bank loans and discounts were higher than in either prior period.

Business failures were less numerous than in the corresponding period of 1928.

CAR LOADINGS

	Total	Miscellaneous	Merchandise L. C. L.	Other
Week ended July 27	1,101,061	425,030	237,742	416,240
Preceding week	1,078,695	421,548	237,517	399,629
Corresponding week, 1928	1,031,320	408,710	235,296	390,320
Corresponding week, 1927	1,044,007	400,795	256,745	387,137

Decline in Cuban Imports of Preserved Milk

Cuban imports of preserved milk in 1928 fell off 15 per cent as compared with the preceding four years, and a still greater decline was experienced during the first half of 1929, according to a special report made to the Department of Commerce by the American commercial attache at Havana, copies of which are available for distribution.

Cuba has been a market for about 50,000,000 pounds of condensed and evaporated milk, but in 1928 took only about 43,000,000 pounds. The decline is ascribed to a combination of two causes: First, a fall in the purchasing power of the Cubans, due to the low price of sugar and a restriction of the sugar output; second, the rapid development of dairying and distribution of fresh milk that began in 1927.

The Commercial attache's report, which is available at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, describes in detail the market conditions during recent years, and the share that the United States has had in this trade.

General Revision of Japanese Import Tariff Probable

A general tariff revision is believed probable during the next session of the Japanese Imperial Diet, according to a cablegram received in the Department of Commerce from the American trade commissioner at Tokyo.

Will Report Tariff Bill to Senate September 3

It was announced on August 9 that while the Finance Committee will complete its work on the schedules in the tariff bill by August 19, the date on which the Senate is to reconvene, the Committee will not have its complete report ready until September 3. It is expected that an agreement will be made for three-day recesses from August 19 to September 3. The House is scheduled to reconvene on September 23.

Emergency Loan Granted to Florida Fruit Growers

The Federal Farm Board on August 8 agreed to a loan of \$300,000, to be used immediately to equip certain citrus packing plants in Florida with heating and pre-cooling facilities to enable the growers to meet government regulations in controlling the Mediterranean fruit fly, and thus to get their crop of this year on the market. The loan is classed by the Board as an emergency loan to meet an emergency marketing situation.